

TO REVISE THE SNOW LAW

The Existing Regulations Held to Be Crude and Defective.

Congress Will Be Called Upon by the District Commissioners to Enact a More Effective Measure. Police Court Convictions Fail to Hold Good Before a Higher Tribunal.

Among the many District matters that will be brought to the attention of Congress during the present session, none will be of greater local interest than the revision of the snow law that is contemplated by the District Commissioners. The regulations which the lawmakers will be called upon to amend are those passed on March 2, 1895, and on March 2, 1897, embodied in what is known as the snow and ice law of the District. These acts provide that the tenant, owner, or agent of a piece of property within the limits are responsible for the removal of any snow or ice that may fall or form on the pavements in front of their premises. The removal must be accomplished within the first four hours of daylight after the fall of snow or the forming of the ice. The failure of the tenant, owner, or agent of the house, houses, or lot to remove the snow or ice is made punishable by a fine in the Police Court, and if the refusal of responsible parties is persistent, the Commissioners are empowered to cause the removal of the snow or ice at the expense of the owner of the property, to be collected as a regular tax against the property with the annual taxes.

The bill also provides that in case the snow or ice is not removed within the time specified, the Commissioners may cause the snow or ice to be removed by the police, and the cost of the removal to be charged to the owner of the property, to be collected as a regular tax against the property with the annual taxes.

Several violations of this law were noted last winter, and the agents of the property were brought into the Police Court to answer the charge of failure to remove the snow. They were convicted by the police judge, but they appealed to the District Court of Appeals, and a short time afterward a decision was handed down reversing the decision of the Police Court. The decision of this court was without criticism, except to point out where the law was defective. In rendering the decision Justice Morris said:

"It is not often that in so short a statute as this there are found so many deficiencies and inconsistencies, and we cannot but suppose that Congress has been led into its enactment without due consideration, in reliance upon its remoteness and upon the good purpose which it was evidently intended to achieve."

The whole act is open to the grave objection that it is unequal in its operation, fails to reach precedent cases, and makes no provision for the removal of snow or ice from the sidewalks in front of the squares and open places, and the streets of the United States, for which some such provision is as much required, for the purposes of the act, as for the sidewalks in front of private property.

In being very apparent to us that the plaintiffs in error are not within the purview of the act of Congress in question, and that, in respect of the several pieces of property mentioned in the information, they are not amenable to the penalties of the act, it is unnecessary for us to express any opinion on the broader question of the constitutionality of the enactment as to those to whom the provisions of the act might be held properly to apply.

We prefer to wait until a case arises in which the determination of that question becomes necessary, especially in view of the fact that the emergency to which the statute relates is not likely to arise again for many years, and may be deemed expedient by those having such matters in charge to apply to Congress for additional legislative enactments, and to correct the infirmities of the existing statute.

The principal trouble with the bill, according to the statements of several persons interested, is that it is not explicit as to who shall be held responsible. Almost every piece of property in the city has a tenant or owner or agent, and the law does not say whether all or only one of these parties shall be amenable to the charge. In cases of vacant lots, where there is only an owner and an agent, the law does not state which is to be held responsible, except where it provides that the cost of the removal, if done by the District, shall be charged to the property as well as the regular tax. In this event not only vacant lots, but improved property as well will be chargeable only to the owner.

The cases which were presented to the Police Court last year were against the agents of unimproved property, and the agents protested that they were not responsible and could not be fined.

Another difficulty encountered in the enforcement of the law is the lack of funds with which to comply with the provisions of the act in removing snow from premises. The owners of the houses refused to comply with the law. Last year the Commissioners had an appropriation which was available for this purpose, but it will not happen so again, they claim, and this year there is no fund which can be drawn upon for the necessary funds.

BRANDY DROPS FOR CHILDREN.
Judy Stores in Jersey City Engaging in Their Sale.

NEW YORK, Jan. 3.—It was learned in Jersey City yesterday that many of the candy stores in that city, and particularly those in the neighborhood of public schools, are selling the so-called brandy drops. Persons trying to stop the sale of these confections have employed school children to make purchases in them.

These drops are mostly in form, and are covered with a coating of chocolate. The cavity inside is filled with a vile concoction, which, while it is not brandy, is certainly an intoxicant. When a match is touched to the fluid it will burst into flame. Its taste is that of cheap whiskey, and experts say that it contains fuel oil.

That school children have been made half

A LETTER FROM WHEELER

Conditions in the Philippines as Seen by the General.

The People Illiterate and Ignorant of the Use of Modern Agricultural Implements—The Productions of the Soil Bountiful—Fires and Plagues Charged With Oppressions.

NEW YORK, Jan. 3.—The "New York Sun" publishes the following letter from General Joseph Wheeler:

"Santa Rita, Philippine Islands.—I have now seen much of the country and the people in that part of Luzon for about thirty miles north of Manila. In every town there is a magnificent stone church and a convent or monastery. The insurgents have a great antipathy to the priesthood or friars, and they have dismantled many of the churches. The value of the church and monastery of a town seems to be equal in many cases to the value of all the other buildings in the town.

"The sugar storehouses are also expensive constructed buildings. They have very thick stone walls and either tile or metal roofs, and cover considerable space of ground; some of them have dimensions of about 60 or 70 feet by 100 feet.

"The church here at Santa Rita is the only one I have seen outside of Manila where services are regularly held.

"A Spirit of Communism.

"The more I talk to the people the more I am convinced that the insurgents are actuated in a measure by a spirit of communism, and in their talks their most serious objection to the church seems to be the fact that the ecclesiastical organizations own so much of the property, and one of Aguinaldo's most earnest demands is that the church property be confiscated.

"There is a general impression that the insurgent army is made up of very largely of people without property, and that people who have property desire the Americans to control so that they can have protection and feel that their property is secured to them, but I find that there is also a fear or apprehension among some of the wealthy that if the Americans control and give universal suffrage, the power of the wealthy people would be taken away and their hold on property very much impaired.

"I think that if the wealthy people could be assured that they would be protected in their property rights by the United States it would have a very good effect.

"The friars and priests are charged with all sorts of oppressions and misdemeanors, but it must be remembered that friars and priests are not a body there is found every possible phase of character and disposition. Some of them are no doubt oppressors of the people, but the majority are honest and fair, and they have lived very different from what should characterize the life of a priest. But there are very many good men among them. Many of them have received good educations in their youth, and being without families and having ample time, they have pursued scientific and other studies and have done a great deal toward the education of the people.

The Religious Orders.

"The religious orders are very rich. They have been acquiring property for nearly three centuries. It was the custom of organizations and individuals to acquire property by settlement and occupation, and title thus acquired is recognized as valid even with no paper title whatever. The religious orders have acquired vast properties in this way, and while it is supposed that the proceeds and the income are to be used for religious and charitable purposes, there is no doubt that much has been used for their personal comfort and benefit."

"The statement I have seen that 70 per cent of the property of the religious orders is in Manila, but it is not true of the rural districts, and the percentage of illiteracy in the other islands is much greater than in Luzon. The appearance, mode of life, and method of performing work is today very much like that described in the Bible of the beginning of the Christian era.

"Corn grows very much as they did 2,000 years ago, the means of transportation by carts drawn by carabaos is about the same, and their methods of sowing and raising the crops are about the same, and no better than they were 2,000 years ago. During the last few years sugar mills and rice mills have been erected in some of the islands, and this has especially been the case since the building of the Manila and Dagupan Railroad, but in the smaller cities and towns rice is husked by pounding by hand, and is winnowed by throwing it into the air, and separating the chaff just as in the earliest times.

A Fertile Land.

"Nearly everything can be grown, but oranges and bananas are not as good as in other localities, the reason, no doubt, being that they seem to give them no cultivation whatever. If they were cultivated I believe they would be as fine as the product of any other country.

"Tobacco is grown in the Valley of Cagayan, in the northeastern part of Luzon, which is said to be equal to any tobacco in the world. The green grown is said to be superior to Mocha.

"Rice is the principal product, and a failure of that crop would cause a terrible famine, as the people depend almost entirely upon it for food. Sugar is the principal crop for export. The greatest amount exported in any one year was 261,681 tons, which was in 1893.

"Corn grows very rapidly, and the ears reach their full growth about sixty days from the time of planting. The provinces which are especially noted as productive of corn are the provinces of Ilocos, South Camarines, Pangasinan, Pangasinan, Nueva Ecija, Bulacan, Batangas, Albay, and Iloilo. Wheat is grown in Batangas and Iloilo, but it is not a success.

"There is a great abundance of very valuable timber in these islands, and many varieties of beautiful hardwoods under native names, such as mahogany, black nut, and ebony. Gold, copper, coal, iron, sulphur, lead, building stone, petroleum, and guano are found.

"There are many different tribes living in these islands, the only one in native rebellion being the Tagal. The tribe occupies some eight provinces in the neighborhood of Manila, and their language and customs are different from those of the Tagals. They are some tribes, the Pangasinan and some others, that sympathize with and aid the Tagals.

"I am confident that a brigade of cavalry could easily travel through a great part of the islands.

"Monkeys are numerous, the flying squirrel, which has a fine skin, is found, and also the wild cat, the wild dog, and the water buffalo. The lion, the tiger, the lynx, leopard, and the bear are found in these islands. In variety, plumage, and charming singing the birds are said to be superior to those of any other part of the earth.

"Crocodiles, boa constrictors, and lizards are found. There are many dangerous snakes, but in this densely populated district there are very few, and the people take the very seldom anyone bitten by one. They also tell me that the natives

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Gigantic Clearing Sale at King's Palace Two Great Stores.

An enormous sacrifice of regular prices to effect complete clearances in every department. Values from which you were asked to pick by other stores yesterday, and which they will continue this afternoon, no doubt, bear no comparison to those which we offer you hereinafter—further evidencing what we have told you so many times that when King's Palace cut prices they cut them deeply.

The greatest reductions are in Capes, Coats, Jackets, Children's Cloaks, and Ladies' Suits, though the sacrifice in Millinery, Dress Goods, Ladies' and Men's Furnishings and Underwear are almost as great.

As usual, Premium Stamps will be given free with purchases, and all Untrimmed Hats will be trimmed free of expense to you, no matter how low the price.

Extraordinary Sacrifices in Wraps.

Reductions that we have made before bear no comparison with those remarkable sacrifices we make now, and if you have put off buying your new Wrap until now you have yourself to congratulate. The great cut in prices which others have made may attract you, and it will be all the better for King's Palace if you look at their values and then come and see ours.

500 Fur Neck Scarfs at \$1.98.

The most extraordinary offering of the sale—500 Siberian Bear Fur Neckscarfs, long, handsome fur which a few weeks ago you could not buy for less than \$5, will be here this morning at \$1.98.

\$5 to \$7 Coats and Capes, \$3.48.

Ladies' Jackets of Kersey Cloth, Rough Oxford Cheviots, and the like, in blue, black, and colors—finished with straw seams and with all those points which add to the attractiveness of a garment, and stylish "Pina" and Cloth Capes, plain and fur-trimmed. Worth \$5 to \$7.

\$6 to \$10 Coats and Capes, \$4.98.

Jackets of the finest grades of Kersey, lined with Skinner's satin and handsome taffeta silk; in black, blue, and colors; finished with fancy tailored stitching if you wish them; a variety of styles; also fashionable plain and fur-trimmed Cloth and Pina. Worth \$6 to \$10.

20 Ladies' Suits, \$4.98.

Sold up to \$8.50.

An extraordinary offering! But only twenty of them. So you'll have to respond early. Twenty Suits of blue and black cheviot serge and cheviot, with silk-lined jackets—with habit or pleated backs—thoroughly tailor-made and stylish—sold for \$7.50 and \$8.50—will be closed out at \$4.98.

\$10 to \$18 Suits, \$7.50.

Ladies' Suits of the finest grades of Venetians, Homespuns, Broadcloths, and the handiwork of Novelty Cloths and Cheviot Serges, in black, blue, and all colors, with jackets made in all the most stylish effects, and all are lined with the finest quality of fancy taffeta silk, or the famous Skinner's satin; the skirts are in a variety of effects, and include the short, unlined garments for rainy-day wear, without underskirts. Choice for \$7.50.

2 Lots of Skirts Less Than 1/2.

Ladies' Plumed Brilliant Skirts, worth up to \$2, are offered at less than \$1, and you have seen what they offered you, and because you have you will appreciate these all the better. Actual \$8 Black Brilliant Skirts, full in width and fashionable in 95¢, bargains for \$1.98.

1,000 Untrimmed Hats, 9c.

An enormous lot of Ladies' Untrimmed Felt Hats, consisting of all those shapes which have been stylish during the season now at its close, and which first of the season sold for as high as 50c, will be offered you—and trimmed to your liking absolutely free—for 9c.

Felt Hats, 39c.

A large lot of ladies' stylish untrimmed felt hats, which were sold for \$1 to \$1.50, will be offered at the very low price, to make a quick clearance, of 39c.

Trimmed Hats, \$1.50.

Those very stylish creations in ladies' trimmed felt hats, of which we sold thousands at \$5 each, will be sacrificed at \$1.50.

KING'S PALACE DEPARTMENT STORES, 812-814 7th St. and 715 Market Space.

12c Ribbon Sale.

Wanters of ribbons will find an unheard-of offering in the sale of pretty taffeta and satin and grain ribbons, 3 to 5 inches wide, in every shade, which cost you 25c yard generally. To go at 12c.

7-inch Plumes, 12c.

Beautiful black and colored plume, seven inches in length, and which sold for as high as 25c each this season, now marked for quick selling at 12 1/2c.

India Linon.

1,200 yards White India Linon, in remnants, from 1 to 10 yards—same quantities would sell from the piece for 15c to 25c a yard. Clearing Sale Price, 8c.

Children's Dresses.

An odd lot of Children's Dresses—some with yokes made in Vandyke effect, trimmed with braid, and others trimmed with ruffles and berrilles over the shoulders—sold for \$1 all season. To go now at the extraordinary 59c low price.

Sateen Skirts.

One lot of Past Black Sateen Skirts, with 9-inch ruffle—good length and width—sold at 50c. Clearing 35c Price.

Corsets.

Heavily-straped Grey and White Jean Corsets—full boned—double strap—all sizes—sold at 50c. Clearing 25c Price.

Lot of Thompson's and "W. B." Corsets—\$1.50, \$1.25, and \$1.00—sort—will go at Clearing Price of 69c.

Waists.

Broken lot of Ladies' Plain Waists—combinations of blue, green, garnet, navy, and brown—stock collars—French backs—sold regularly at 50c. 49c Clearing Price.

Wrappers.

Odd lot of Ladies' Flannellette and Porelle Wrappers, some braid, trimmed and others trimmed with berrilles over the shoulders; in such colors as lavender, blue, green, garnet, extra wide, well-made garments which 69c sold at \$1.00. Clearing price.

Hosiery.

Lot of Children's Fast Black Hose, spliced heels and toes, double knee; sold at 15c. Clearing price, 6c.

Child's Underwear.

Children's Heavy Grey Flannel-lined Vests, the "Jeager" sort, with French necks; drawers to match; sold at 23c 25c. Clearing price.

Ladies' Union Suits.

Ladies' Half-wool "Onella" Union Suits, finished with pearl buttons, crocheted edge, in grey and white; sold at 75c. Clearing price.

Handkerchiefs.

The Ladies' Plain and Fancy 24c Bordered Handkerchiefs.

15c Ladies' Linen Handkerchiefs, lace and embroidered edges, wide and narrow hem.

Shell Goods.

25c Side Combs, Black Amber and Shell, 10c pair.

12 1/2c Side Combs, Black and Shell, 5c pair.

25c dozen Bone Hairpins, Shell and Amber, 8c dozen.

Linen.

Extra heavy grade Linen Table Damask, 2 yards wide—pretty designs—bleached and unbleached. No better value to be had at 50c. Clearing 39c.

18 dozen 2 1/2-inch Square Napkins—the regular price of which is \$1.25, slightly soiled, yet hardly perceptible. Clearance Sale Price—89c.

Men's Furnishings.

Your unrestricted choice of all our Men's Neckwear, which include the very best of the well-known New York makers, embracing pinks, accents, and in hands, and necks, which sold at 50c and 75c, for 23c.

Men's heavy all-wool Shirts and Drawers—grey and camel's hair—which we have been selling all season at 75c and \$1 a garment, and which is up to date value at those prices, are offered you for 47c.

The unrestricted choice of all of our Men's Percal Laundered Shirts, with stiff bosoms and detachable collars, and also a lot of men's White Shirts which have been selling at \$1, \$1.25, and \$1.50, for 59c.

THE BOOKS AND CASH GONE.

A County Treasurer Charged With Being \$125,000 Short.

INDIANAPOLIS, Jan. 3.—When Treasurer Wilson took charge of the office of county treasurer in Shelby county yesterday there were no books in the office except those showing receipts and disbursements since June last. All the records for three years and six months before that time had disappeared. The outgoing treasurer professed not to know what had become of them. According to the books kept since June there should have been \$25,000 on hand, but instead of this only \$125 was in the vault. Treasurer Wilson, who turned over the office to Mr. Lee, offered \$2,500 in settlement in full, but this was rejected.

The county auditor's books, corresponding to those of the treasurer prior to June last, are also missing, and thus the county has no official record whatever for that time. Treasurer Wilson's bondsmen are solvent, but it cannot be determined what he owes the county. Estimates by the auditors fix the sum due at \$125,000, and Wilson will be charged with this shortage.

Automobiles to Race for a Cup.

PARIS, Jan. 3.—The Automobile Club de France has received five entries for the international race cup, namely Germany, Italy, Belgium, America, and France.

The Best Cough Remedy.

"One bottle of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy cured me of a chronic cough after all other remedies had failed," says C. H. Deno of Colon, Mich. "I cannot speak too highly of it." It troubled with a cold or a gripe give this remedy a trial and you are certain to be more than pleased with the result. It is for sale by Henry Evans, wholesale, and all druggists.

The Best Chocolate.

When placing on the market the new product Van Houten's Chocolate (for eating), some time ago, the manufacturers had before them the object of offering buyers a nutritive and digestible Chocolate of irreplaceable composition, while at the same time more delicious in flavor than any of the already existing kinds; in other words, a Chocolate which, both from the point of view as to health as well as to flavor, should satisfy the most exacting demands. The universal good opinion concerning Van Houten's Chocolate, seems to prove that this object has been attained; and it is recognized as being superior to other Chocolates, as Van Houten's Cocoa is superior to other cocoas. When travelling, picnicking, or bicycling, it proves of great service.

Sold in Tins of Croquettes and Tins of Drops.
Also in Square Tablets and Small Bars.